



State of Utah

Department of
Environmental Quality

Richard W. Sprott
Executive Director

William J. Sinclair
Deputy Director

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Rick Sprott, (801) 536-4404,
Executive Director, DEQ

Environmental Director Rick Sprott to Retire

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Rick Sprott, executive director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), announced today that he plans to retire effectively on Dec. 5. to spend more time with his family.

Deputy Director Bill Sinclair will serve as the interim executive director until a permanent replacement is announced by Governor Huntsman.

In June 2007, Huntsman appointed Sprott as executive director of DEQ to replace Dianne Nielson who became the Governor's energy advisor. Sprott, a former air quality director, has been with DEQ for 14 years following a career in the Air Force.

"I had initially planned to retire before being appointed director at DEQ," said Sprott. "I have appreciated the leadership the Governor has shown for environmental issues and the support the Legislature has given to fund critical programs such as air quality and others. But my family has relocated to New Mexico and I am anxious to join them."

In addition, Sprott thanked businesses, environmental groups, and local health departments for their collaborative spirit to solve problems. "This is what really sets us apart from other states," he added.

Sprott, 62, said he leaves behind a strong leadership team within DEQ, all of whom are dedicated and committed to protecting public health and the environment.

"DEQ employees are incredibly dedicated and talented individuals. I am fully confident that this agency will continue to improve the quality of life in Utah," he said. "I don't expect DEQ to skip a beat."

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